

CLAIMS

1. A catamenial tampon comprising:
 - a compressed absorbent member having an inner region and an exterior surface, said compressed absorbent member comprising an absorbent material;
 - said absorbent material having a first surface opposed to the second surface and an insertion end opposed to a withdrawal end;
 - a fluid wicking overwrap substantially covering said first surface and said second surface of said absorbent material;
 - said fluid wicking overwrap extending beyond the withdrawal end of said absorbent material to form a skirt portion;
 - said fluid wicking overwrap substantially covering said exterior surface of the compressed absorbent member; and
 - a portion of said fluid wicking overwrap substantially permeating said inner region of said compressed absorbent member.
2. A tampon according to Claim 1 wherein said fluid wicking overwrap has a low adherence to tissue.
3. A tampon according to Claim 1 wherein the fluid wicking overwrap comprises synthetic fibers and natural fibers.
4. A tampon according to Claim 3 wherein the ratio of the synthetic fibers to natural fibers is from about 90:10 to about 30:70.

5. A tampon according to Claim 1 wherein the fluid wicking overwrap has a horizontal gravimetric wicking capacity with a range of from about 2 to about 6 grams of fluid per gram of tampon at a 500 second interval.
6. A tampon according to Claim 1 wherein said fluid wicking overwrap is hydroentangled and comprises about 50% rayon and about 50% polyester.
7. A tampon according to Claim 10 wherein said skirt portion extends from about 5mm to about 30mm from said withdrawal end of said absorbent material.
8. A tampon according to Claim 1 further comprising a non-aggressive overwrap, which substantially covers a portion of the fluid wicking overwrap on the exterior surface of the compressed absorbent member.
9. A catamenial tampon comprising:
 - a compressed absorbent member having an inner region and an exterior surface, said compressed absorbent member comprising an absorbent material;
 - said absorbent material having a first surface opposed to the second surface and an insertion end opposed to a withdrawal end;
 - a fluid wicking overwrap substantially covering said first surface and said second surface of said absorbent material;
 - said fluid wicking overwrap extending beyond the withdrawal end of said absorbent material to form a skirt portion;
 - said fluid wicking overwrap substantially covering said exterior surface of the compressed absorbent member;

a portion of said fluid wicking overwrap substantially permeating said inner region of said compressed absorbent member; and

a withdrawal means attached to said compressed absorbent member and extending beyond at least said withdrawal end.

10. A tampon according to Claim 9 wherein said fluid wicking overwrap does not substantially adhere to the tissue.
11. A tampon according to Claim 9 wherein the fluid wicking overwrap is 100% rayon.
12. A tampon according to Claim 9 wherein the fluid wicking overwrap has a horizontal gravimetric wicking capacity with a range from about 2.5 to about 5 grams of fluid per gram of tampon at a 500 second interval.
13. A tampon according to Claim 9 wherein said fluid wicking overwrap comprises a thermally bonded 50% rayon 50% polypropylene.
14. A tampon according to Claim 9 wherein said skirt portion extends from 2mm to 20mm from said withdrawal end of said absorbent material.
15. A tampon according to Claim 14 wherein the fluid wicking overwrap comprises synthetic fibers and natural fibers.
16. A process for making a tampon comprising:
 - (a) providing an absorbent material having a first surface opposed to a second surface and an insertion end opposed to a withdrawal end;
 - (b) providing a fluid wicking overwrap;

- (c) creating a wrapped absorbent by substantially covering said first surface and second surface of said absorbent material with said fluid wicking overwrap; said fluid wicking overwrap extending beyond said withdrawal end of said absorbent material to form a skirt portion.
- (d) compressing said wrapped absorbent to form a compressed absorbent member having a vaginally insertable shape, said compressed absorbent member having an inner region and an exterior surface;

wherein upon compression said fluid wicking overwrap substantially covers the exterior surface of the compressed absorbent member and substantially permeates the inner region of the compressed absorbent member.

- 17. A process according to Claim 16 further comprising the step of providing a withdrawal means and attaching said withdrawal means to said wrapped absorbent prior to compression.
- 18. A process according to Claim 16 further comprising the step of providing an insertion means and positioning said compressed primary absorbent within said insertion means.
- 19. A process according to Claim 16 further comprising the step of rolling the wrapped absorbent before compression.
- 20. A process according to Claim 16 wherein the skirt portion extends at least about 3mm from the withdrawal end.